

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for performing a task using a plurality of applications in a networked computer environment, the method comprising:
 - 5 sending instructions for performing the task from a first computer system to one or more remote computer systems, wherein the instructions for performing the task comprise instructions for performing one or more subtasks with each of a plurality of applications, and wherein the instructions for performing the task comprise a plurality of messages in a portable format;
 - 10 translating the instructions for performing the task from the portable format to an executable format at the one or more remote computer systems, thereby generating executable instructions for performing the plurality of subtasks; and
 - executing the executable instructions to perform the subtasks comprising the task.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1,
wherein the instructions are sent to the one or more remote computer systems via a distributed computing infrastructure.
3. The method of claim 1,
20 wherein the instructions are translated from the portable format to the executable form by a distributed computing infrastructure.
4. The method of claim 1,
wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more
25 remote computer systems using unicast peer-to-peer messaging.
5. The method of claim 1,
wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

6. The method of claim 1,
wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more
remote computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

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7. The method of claim 1,
wherein the portable format comprises XML.

8. A carrier medium comprising program instructions for performing a task using a
10 plurality of applications in a networked computer environment, wherein the program
instructions are computer-executable to implement:

15 sending instructions for performing the task from a first computer system to one
or more remote computer systems, wherein the instructions for performing the task
comprise instructions for performing one or more subtasks with each of a plurality of
applications, and wherein the instructions for performing the task comprise a plurality of
messages in a portable format;

translating the instructions for performing the task from the portable format to an
executable format at the one or more remote computer systems, thereby generating
executable instructions for performing the plurality of subtasks; and

20 executing the executable instructions to perform the subtasks comprising the task.

9. The carrier medium of claim 8,
wherein the instructions are sent to the one or more remote computer systems via
a distributed computing infrastructure.

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10. The carrier medium of claim 8,
wherein the instructions are translated from the portable format to the executable
form by a distributed computing infrastructure.

11. The carrier medium of claim 8,
wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems using unicast peer-to-peer messaging.

5 12. The carrier medium of claim 8,
wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

13. The carrier medium of claim 8,
10 wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

14. The carrier medium of claim 8,
wherein the portable format comprises XML.

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15. A system for performing a task using a plurality of applications in a networked computer environment, the system comprising:

a first computer system comprising a first CPU and a first memory; and

one or more remote computer systems comprising one or more respective remote

20 CPUs and one or more respective remote memories;

wherein the first computer system and the one or more remote computer systems are communicatively coupled via a network;

wherein the first memory stores program instructions which are executable by the first CPU to:

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send instructions for performing the task from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems, wherein the instructions for performing the task comprise instructions for performing one or more subtasks with each of a plurality of applications, and wherein the instructions for performing the task comprise a plurality of messages in a portable format;

wherein the one or more remote memories store program instructions which are executable by the one or more respective remote CPUs to:

- translate the instructions for performing the task from the portable format to an executable format at the one or more remote computer systems, thereby generating
5 executable instructions for performing the plurality of subtasks; and
execute the executable instructions to perform the subtasks comprising the task.

16. The system of claim 15,
10 wherein the instructions are sent to the one or more remote computer systems via a distributed computing infrastructure.

17. The system of claim 15,
wherein the instructions are translated from the portable format to the executable
15 form by a distributed computing infrastructure.

18. The system of claim 15,
wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems using unicast peer-to-peer messaging.

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19. The system of claim 15,
wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems using multicast peer-to-peer messaging.

20. The system of claim 15,
25 wherein the messages are sent from the first computer system to the one or more remote computer systems using broadcast peer-to-peer messaging.

21. The system of claim 15,

wherein the portable format comprises XML.